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NEW ERA FOR WASTE IN ADELAIDE

After almost 50 years of operation Wingfield landfill will close today, heralding the dawning of a new era in waste management for South Australia, Environment and Conservation Minister John Hill said.

Minister Hill said the closing of the landfill, Adelaide's major waste disposal site where the majority of metropolitan waste goes, was a significant milestone as the state shifted its focus from the dumping of waste, to recovery and recycling.

"This year has been a very significant year in terms of waste management in South Australia," Minister Hill said.

"Not only is our major landfill closing for waste disposal, but the State Government has established Zero Waste SA, with the intention of reducing the amount of waste going to landfill through recovery and recycling - with the ultimate goal of there being no need for landfills.

"We still have a long way to go to achieve this, but we should make the closure of Wingfield a step towards changing our priorities as a society from the dumping and stockpiling of waste, to recycling it."

During its lifetime, Adelaide City Council's Wingfield received up to 1645 tonnes of waste a day, and up to 600,000 tonnes a year.

Under a plan by Adelaide City Council, Wingfield landfill will take on a new role as a waste transfer and resource recovery site.

Meanwhile, waste from the northern metropolitan area will now go to Dublin balefill, and to two new landfills at Inkerman and Medlow Road.

Waste from Adelaide's southern areas will continue to go to Southern Waste Depot, Maslin Beach, and Southern Region Disposal Depot, McLaren Vale.

But Minister Hill said the long term goal was for no new landfills, which are a major source of methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

Zero Waste SA's draft waste management strategy released last month sets explicit targets for waste reduction in SA.

Under the plan by 2010 :

- 75 per cent of all waste put out by householders for kerbside collection will be recycled.

- Recycling of construction and demolition waste would double.
- Recycling of commercial and industrial waste would jump by 30 per cent.
- All waste collected in Adelaide would first be processed through a transfer station or resource recovery facility to remove recyclables before going to landfill.

“If we allow the current practices for waste to continue there will be serious environmental consequences,” Minister Hill said.

“The state’s first comprehensive waste strategy will guide us in changing our behaviour for the long term future of our state and for our children’s future.”

Minister Hill wished Adelaide City Council and its partners well in the development of Wingfield as an important facility for waste transfer, resource recovery and recycling in metropolitan Adelaide.